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Westfield River Stream Teams Gathering to Review Survey Findings

BOSTON – The Massachusetts Riverways Adopt-A-Stream program and the Westfield River Wild & Scenic Advisory Committee will meet next month to present results of recent volunteer surveys of approximately 70 miles of the East, West, and Middle Branches and several headwater tributaries of the Westfield River.

More than 65 volunteers took part in extensive shoreline surveys of the Westfield River in 2007, documenting scenic, historical, geological, recreational and ecological features. Next month's public meetings will feature photos, maps, shoreline survey reports and executive summaries from the 2007 work, as well as discussion of projects and activities planned for the upcoming year.

“Stream Team” members have already integrated 2007 results into ongoing programs and activities, including selection of eight sampling sites for a new water quality monitoring program to be launched this year. In addition, another “Walk in the Watershed” shoreline survey round is planned for this spring. Riverways, a program of the state Department of Fish and Game, and the Westfield River Wild & Scenic Advisory Committee invite the public to attend the following Stream Team gatherings to learn about these programs and explore ways to get involved:

East Branch: Monday, March 3, 6:30-8:30 pm,
Cummington Community House, Main Street, Cummington

West Branch: Thursday, March 6, 6:30-8:30 pm,
Chester Railroad Station, 10 Prospect Street, Chester

A third meeting, focused on the Middle Branch of the Westfield River will take place the last week of March at a date and location to be determined later. For more information, contact (413) 268-3129, ext 2 or WalkintheWatershed@hotmail.com.

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